

Name: Melani Situmorang SCREENING REFLECTION TEMPLATE Film Title: Grizzly Man  
Year: 2005 Director: Werner Herzog

1. What is the subject matter of this documentary film?

Answer: The subject matter of this documentary film is about the man who loved the bears yet ironically died in the hands of a bear. The man survived for 13 summers, living together with bears in their habitat. He camped there, interacting with the bears and some other wild animals, recording them and himself. One time, a bear murdered him and his partner.

2. What is the purpose and/or viewpoint this documentary film appears to emphasize?

Answer: I think the viewpoint of this documentary film appears to emphasize how ironic it is for a man who was very enthusiastic about bears, passionate about them, and died because of one of them. Throughout the documentary, we see how he's very passionate about the bears and how he tried to share his experience with bears with children in school. We also see how he cursed people that threw some rocks to the bears. I think the director wants to send a message for the audience to not copy what Tim did, though they might also be very caring about animals because living in the wild is dangerous for people.

3. What notable production methods and techniques are utilized in this documentary?

Answer: The documentary production of this film feels like an independent documentary production. It doesn't seem like a documentary company production. We can see this since they're using the footage that Tim took, which sometimes can be shaky. Also, to me, there's no expensive effects for this documentary being involved. Techniques that are very noticeable that they're using are zooming in and zooming out. For instance, they're zooming in Tim's last picture with his partner. They zoomed out the area where he spent his life, to show the audience what kind of area that he was living in.

4. What impression did this film make upon you as an audience member?

Answer: The impression that this film makes upon me as an audience member is that it's somewhat unbearable to watch. I sometimes have to pause watching this documentary. My one reason is because I don't wish for him to take the footage of the bear's poop and touching it. Another reason is not necessarily because of the visual content, but because of Tim Treadwell's personality that I perceived through the footage of him. For instance, when he's yelling out for rain to god, it rubs me in the wrong way, probably because I do believe in God. Another instance is when he said that he's protecting the bears. I appreciate his enthusiasm towards the bears' continuation of life, but I think we, humans, should just stop thinking that we somewhat can have control towards animals, especially wild animals and just let them live peacefully. Also, I was confused about where the direction of this documentary was the entire time I first watched it.

5. Did the aforementioned impression enhance or detract from your experience of this film?

Answer: The impression detract from my experience of this film. I was confused about how I should feel reacting to this film. I feel like I should be emotional watching this documentary, yet I don't entirely feel that way. I fail to have empathy towards Tim's friends and family.

6. What artistic and aesthetic forms were impacting you as a viewer of this film?

Answer: Aesthetic form that was impacting me as a viewer of this film is the early 2000s video footage. The shaky hand cam footage. No color grading being included. For instance, 03:19-03:25. The music that was used in the beginning and at the end of this documentary sounds like a very 2000s style.

7. Has this film in any way (and if so, address them) influenced you to action and/or change?

Answer: This film doesn't influence me to action and or change. However, through this documentary, I learn to not bother wild animals and let them live the way they are. They're not a source of entertainment. They're living beings. I also learn not to feel proud of myself when I'm in the wild. There are many dangerous living beings out there that I should respect.

8. What were two exceptional qualities of the film (list and describe)?

Answer: I think one exceptional qualities of the film is the editing. If I don't know that Tim was actually dead, I'd think that they purposely make the documentary aesthetic this way. The editing makes it seem that the entire documentary is one film. The director doesn't seem to be just putting a bunch of different footage together. In a sense, there's a narration to be told. In a sense, this documentary feels like a docudrama yet it isn't. Another exceptional quality of this film is although they mentioned Tim's death and his partner over and over again in the entire film, it's good that they don't show us their bodies explicitly. I'm mentioning this as a good quality because there's one youtuber that filmed people's dead bodies in a suicide forest in Japan, published it to the audience, explicitly, and then get sued as they're violating people's privacy.

9. What were two deficient qualities of the film (list and describe)?

Answer: One deficient quality of the film is how indirect and kind of confusing the message that this documentary portrays. While I understand that a documentary doesn't necessarily have to have direct messages, I think it should at least not be confusing. It should have a social significance and I can't comprehend what is the social significance of this documentary. Another deficient quality of this film is the duration feels too long. It's only an hour forty five minutes documentary, yet it felt like it was a 2 and a half hour documentary. I feel like they could somehow cut down the friends' interview scenes, yet probably it'll make the interview feel less natural.

10. Overall Reflections/Feedback: - (To Be Completed in a Two Paragraph MINIMUM)

Answer:

The subject matter of this documentary film is about the man who loved the bears yet ironically died in the hands of a bear. I think the director wants to send a message for the audience to not copy what Tim did, though they might also be very caring about animals because living in the wild is dangerous for people. The impression that this film makes upon me as an audience member is that it's somewhat unbearable to watch. Especially when the director heard the recording of the time when Tim's partner and him lost their lives, narrating it to one of Tim's friends. I was confused about how I should feel reacting to this film.

Watching this film doesn't influence me to change. However, through this documentary, I learn to not bother wild animals and let them live the way they are. I wished to see more of Tim's partner 's as well, cause Tim was not the only victim. I want to know her story and what makes her decide to follow Tim, knowing that she too would be in danger.